

# SOUNDRoom

## Tech 21 Bass Boost Chorus

BY BRIAN FOX



**WHEN KURT COBAIN PLUGGED INTO** an Electro-Harmonix Small Clone stompbox and tracked the opening riffs to Nirvana's "Come As You Are" back in 1991, it signaled a sort of death and rebirth for the role of chorus effects in pop music. Cruelly abused in the '80s by guitar players looking to deepen their sound on cheesy power ballads, the watery, sometimes warble-y effect had come to represent all that was wrong in the decadent music of the day. All that changed when Cobain dressed it up in dirty flannel that reeked of '70s-era arena rock. Popularity of the effect has waxed and waned since, but if the folks at Tech 21 have their way, it's back with a vengeance in the form of their Bass Boost Chorus.

Finding a chorus pedal that works well with bass can be tricky—the effect can turn a note's fundamental into a murky mess,

and a groove mired in mud is no fun for anyone. In this department, the Bass Boost Chorus excels. Setting a MIX blend of 70% wet allowed me to dial in a cool, shimmering chorus atop a meaty fundamental. Spinning the SPEED and DEPTH knobs ran me through a range of familiar chorus sounds ranging from mellow to woozy, while the TONE control worked much like a passive bass's tone pot, darkening the sound as I rolled it back. Tech 21's DETUNE control is one of its coolest features. Set to noon, there's rather little noticeable pitch shifting involved. Turning "flat" gave the impression of a subtle vibrato, as one might get from playing fretless bass, while turning "sharp" allowed for more extreme effects. Engaging the MULTI VOICE button smoothed out these effects in a big way—rather than sounding like two instruments playing together, it made it sound as if there were a bevy of

bassists playing in unison.

Players looking to "get wet" would do well to dive in with Tech 21's Bass Boost Chorus, the hippest chorus pedal to hit the market in a good long while. For its depth of sound and ancillary ability to double as a clean boost, the Bass Boost Chorus is deserving of a BASS PLAYER Editors Award. **BP**

### TECH 21 BASS BOOST CHORUS

Street \$189

**Pros** Wide range of chorus sounds; works as clean boost

**Cons** None

**Contact** [tech21nyc.com](http://tech21nyc.com)